

# NOVEL READINGS

EVENT	Trial Session
PROJECT	<i>Bad Animals</i>
AUTHOR	Sarah Braunstein
EXCERPT(S)	Sc. 12 (Libby's fictional version of what happened) Sc. 8 (Maeve picks up Willy)
NR DIRECTOR	Michael Barakiva

**Thrilling to discuss the project and receive such focused, intelligent feedback. The blend of literary and theater modalities helped me think about my project in a new way.**

Amazing to hear my work come to life. **Questions I could have struggled with for months were answered quickly. The humor, sensitivity, and insight of this group of carefully cast actors supported my understanding of my novel-in-progress. Loved thinking about characters with Michael**, finding ways to describe these people I invented, who've only lived in my head until now. **I was grateful for the especially productive and nuanced discussions of race and representation.**

Most critically, it gave me confidence. **A passage of dialogue I might have lingered on for weeks I could immediately decide to cut, or re-imagine.** Conversely, **I saw passages with depth and importance beyond what I'd understood.** A novel is a long, hard, solitary process, and a writer can't be attuned to all its dimensions at once. **Talking with actors, and asking about their experiences embodying my work, provided clarity I couldn't have foreseen. In this collaborative, curious, warm-hearted, and FUN setting, I came to appreciate aspects of the book I hadn't understood before. The revision process that followed was exhilarating, and I finished my revision within weeks of the session.**